

SCALING UP ACTION ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: A Critical Step for Climate Change Adaptation and Building Resilience



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GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
Administered by the World Bank



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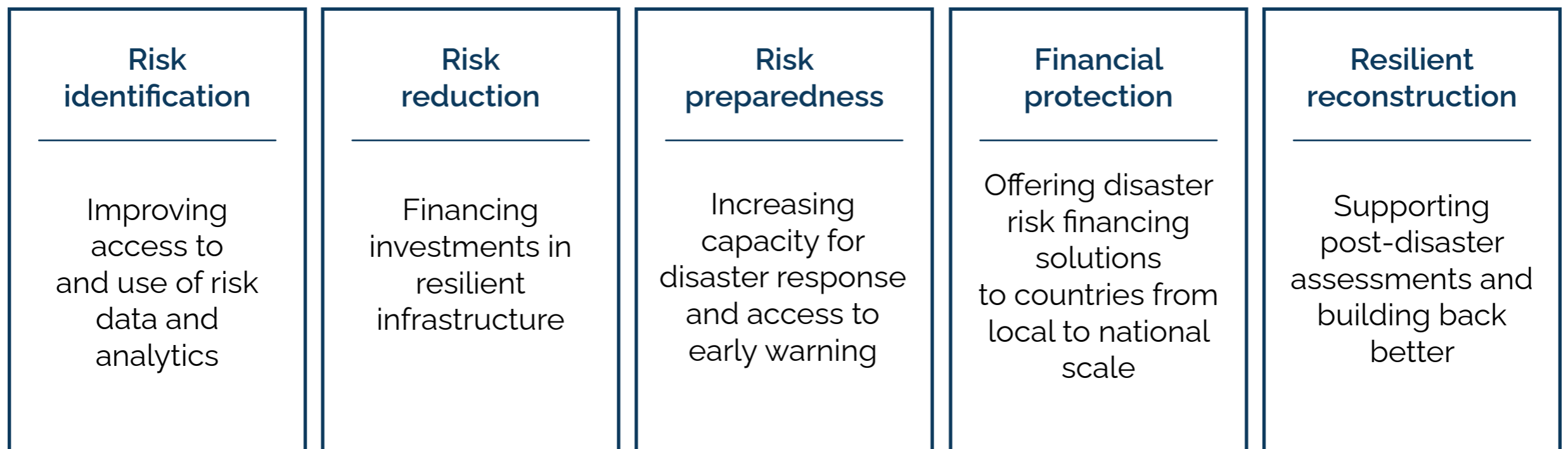
SINCE 1970, 82% OF DEATHS CAUSED BY NATURAL HAZARDS AND EXTREME WEATHER OCCURRED IN LOW AND LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES.



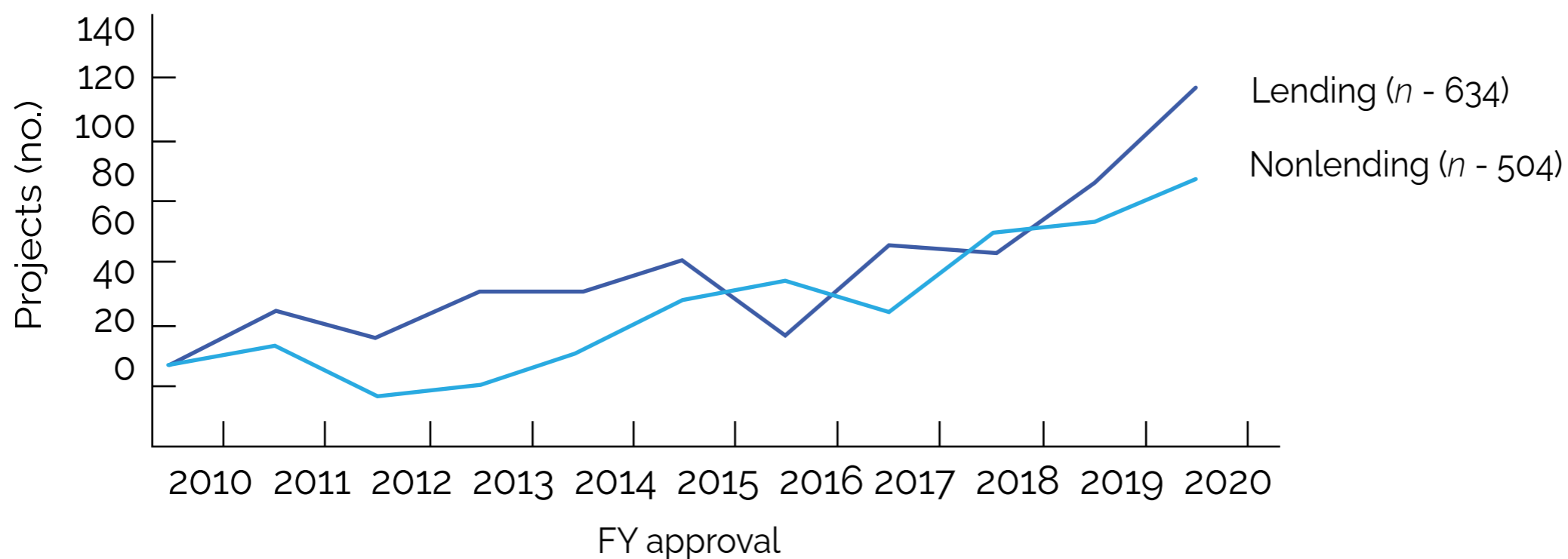
- » **Disasters** caused by natural hazards are increasingly **threatening the lives and livelihoods** of the world's poor and most vulnerable populations.
- » **Climate change** is further exacerbating disaster impacts by contributing to more destructive droughts, floods, and storms.
- » As the **largest multilateral funder of climate investments in developing countries**, the World Bank Group's **Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025** pledged that 50% of its climate financing will support adaptation and resilience.

Portfolio

- » Over the past decade, the World Bank has emerged as the **global leader in disaster risk management** (DRM), which plays a central role in achieving the corporate goals for climate change adaptation and resilience.
- » The DRM strategy and programs are led by the **Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice** in collaboration with the **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)**, a global partnership managed by the World Bank that provides financing and technical support for DRM across the institution.
- » The institution's support for DRM revolves around five **pillars**:



» Since 2010, the World Bank has **tripled its disaster risk reduction (DRR)**, strongly supported by GFDRR and a conducive global authorizing environment.



Source: Independent Evaluation Group. | Note: FY - Fiscal Year

» Between fiscal year FY10 and FY20, the World Bank approved **1,130 operations with DRR activities** in 138 countries.

Examples of effective disaster risk reduction



Flood preparedness and risk mitigation in Bihar, India

In Bihar, India's most flood-prone state, the World Bank has contributed to flood mitigation and preparedness at scale. In the wake of devastating floods in 2008 affecting over 3 million people, the World Bank provided \$470 million in financing through the Kosi Flood Recovery and the Kosi Basin Development Project that helped to improve over 70 kilometers of embankments. These efforts also helped to decentralize approaches to embankment monitoring and maintenance, flood forecasting, and early-warning systems since scaled to other basins. Flood forecast systems have improved to the point of providing 90% accuracy in forecasts at a lead time of 72 hours and work is being done to expand this to five days. This enables vulnerable people to evacuate before floods hit, reducing deaths and losses. The World Bank is continuing to help expand these measures to the entire state.



Resilient schools in Mozambique

In Mozambique, structural weaknesses in school building construction were resulting in an average of 550 classrooms being destroyed annually by cyclones and floods. The World Bank provided advisory services and analytics to develop structurally resilient school building designs and standards. On the basis of these designs, it then supported the government to enact policy changes and adopt these standards for all new construction and financed an initial set of school retrofits. Importantly, the World Bank also worked with partners to establish a sector wide funding platform for school reconstruction. Since 2016, all newly constructed classrooms have adopted resilient design standards. Tellingly, all schools constructed under upgraded standards survived the severe cyclones in 2019.



Integrated flood management in Manila, the Philippines

Manila, a megacity with a population of 13.5 million, faces severe flood risks. Historically, the city's flood management system was uncoordinated and reactive. Flooding from a 2009 typhoon submerged 80% of the city, killing hundreds of people and causing damage equal to 2.7% of national GDP. With the World Bank's support, the city adopted an integrated, coordinated, and long-term approach to flood management. A World Bank supported Post-Disaster Needs Assessment helped build consensus among agencies and metro-area mayors, and a consultative risk assessment process led to the approval of a Flood Management Master Plan (2012) laying out flood mitigation investments over a 25-year period. Since then, a World Bank approved \$500 million Metro Manila Flood Management Project is helping to finance the plan's implementation, leading to anticipated reduction of disaster risk.



GFDRR FY21 Annual Report



Transforming the Global Response to Disaster Risk

What have we learned?

The main **findings** from the Independent Evaluation Group's (IEG) evaluation 'Reducing Disaster Risks from Natural Hazards' were:

- » There has been a **shift** from post-disaster response toward pre-disaster risk reduction. DRR was built into nearly all disaster response operations.
- » The World Bank often uses **multiple and synergistic pillars of DRR engagement** that include hazard identification, resilient infrastructure, early-warning and preparedness activities, and, in several cases, financial protection.
- » **DRR has been increasingly mainstreamed across sectors.** Support for DRR in small island developing states, and in fragile, conflict and violence affected countries has been particularly comprehensive. This large program of DRR can contribute to climate change adaptation.
- » The World Bank has been successfully supporting clients to increasingly take up DRR actions through **strategic and comprehensive country engagement.** The World Bank has focused its work on those countries exposed to the most serious natural hazards, leaving coverage gaps in some regions.
- » Political and financial constraints to DRR uptake have been tackled by **engaging the right decision makers**, using rigorous evidence, and by building on disaster reconstruction efforts.



Read the IEG evaluation



What's next for the World Bank Group?

Based on IEG's evaluation **recommendations**, the World Bank will advance disaster risk reduction efforts in four key areas:

- » Incorporate DRR activities in regions and sectors and for hazards that exhibit significant coverage gaps.
- » Identify and measure the effects of DRR activities on exposure and vulnerability to strengthen the development case to clients facing serious disaster risks.
- » Integrate the needs of populations that are disproportionately vulnerable to disasters caused by natural hazards into DRR project design and measurement.
- » Identify and assess the ways in which hazards and conflict interrelate and use this to inform country engagement and project design.

Why is it crucial to scale up action on disaster risk reduction?

- » **Investing in DRR has strong economic and social benefits**, yet underinvestment in DRR globally, particularly in disaster risk mitigation and preparedness, remains an issue. Resilient infrastructure investments can have a present value of \$4 return on each dollar invested. When countries rebuild infrastructure after disasters to be more resilient, they can reduce the negative impact of future disasters on well-being by as much as 31%.
- » **Mainstreaming disaster risk management** into development planning can reverse the current trend of rising disaster impacts, and the World Bank is committed to continue supporting countries' efforts to prioritize adaptation and resilience.
- » **Financing DRR can save lives and livelihoods** and is essential for climate change adaptation and building a more sustainable future.

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